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The Playground

To Promote Normal Wholesome Play and Public Recreation



L. W. Hinz

AN IMPROVED WADING POOL

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The Playground

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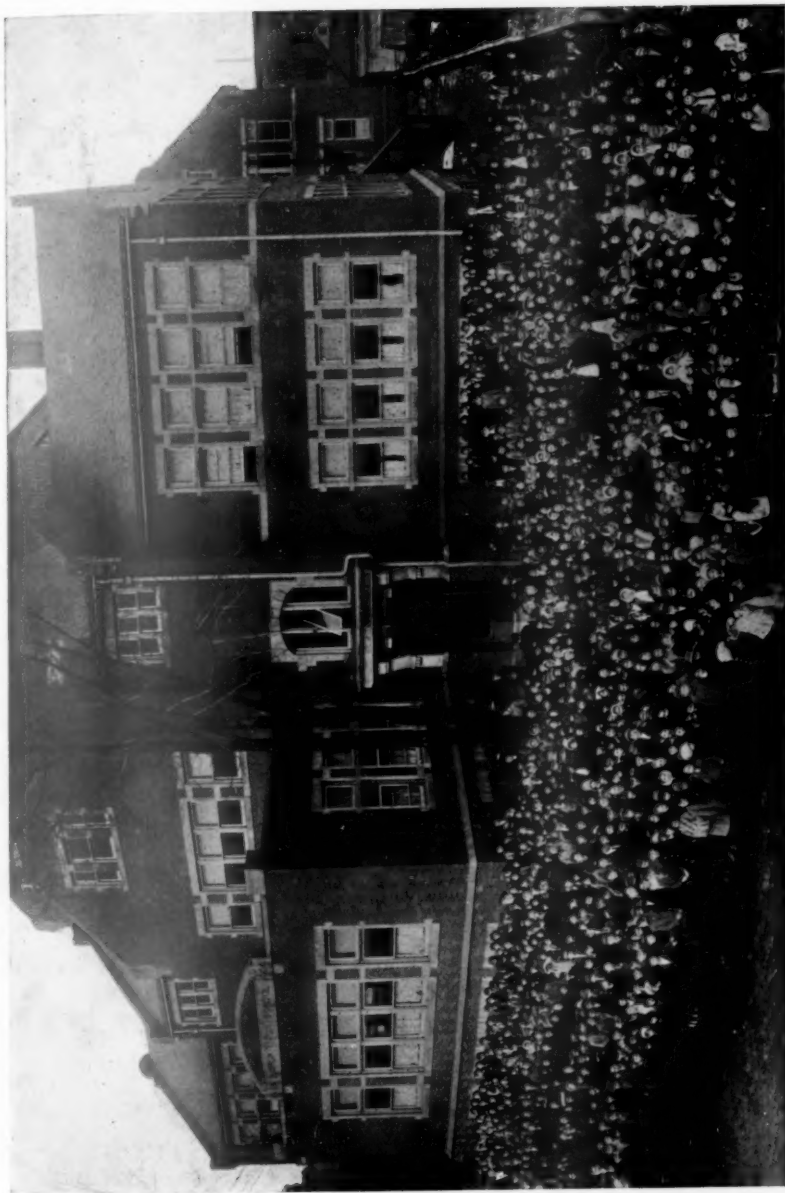
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Detroit Saturday Night.

Some time ago the Detroit Saturday Night published this picture showing 1,200 school children without a playground. Sixty-five thousand dollars has since been appropriated for the property adjoining this school to provide a playground for the children. It would have been hard to think of a more effective argument than this picture.

PLAY VISION The address on Substitutes for the Saloon printed in this issue was written and delivered before the Congregational Church in Davenport, Iowa, in 1891, twenty years ago. This address shows how many have been thinking of the recreation problem even before the modern awakening. The modern recreation movement is a growth—the product of the needs of the time. No single individual can claim its discovery. To many people in many different cities the same vision came. Though many individuals with this vision have united in the Playground and Recreation Association of America, the vision is greater even than any organization can possibly be.

RECREATION CENTERS The growth of the recreation center idea is startling in its rapidity. Each week brings news of some city aroused to meet the needs of its young people. Clarence Arthur Perry, in a recent statement, summarized the situation as follows: "In at least twelve American cities organized recreation centers are maintained in one or more school buildings entirely by municipal funds. In ten other municipalities they are maintained by some voluntary organization working in co-operation with the school board. In over a dozen other cities a beginning in recreational work has been made by throwing open on some of the evenings certain of the school facilities, such as the assembly halls, class rooms or baths. Ten cities of which I know,—and there are undoubtedly many others,—have established public recreational centers in buildings not used for school purposes, while in a still larger number of places an agitation for the establishment of social centers has been started by some organization or definite group of people. Over a hundred cities are holding public lectures and entertainments in their school buildings at various times during the year, while the number which are used for meetings of parents and teachers and ward improvement associations is beyond the possibility of exact statement." More important than that all our cities within the next twelve months should establish recreation centers is it that the centers established do good work and that the

most efficient workers be found for the positions created. The recreation centers described by Mr. Perry cannot be separated in any city from the rest of the recreation program without a loss of efficiency. It is with good reason that the cities now starting their recreation work are arranging to place their recreation centers, their playgrounds, athletic contests, boy scout activities, children's gardens, festivals, the management of municipal summer camps, in charge of some one municipal body, and are engaging recreation secretaries to be responsible for all this related work.

A few years ago in many cities, when large sums of money were spent for children's playgrounds, employment was given the play leaders only during the summer months. Strong workers were not attracted by part time employment. When secured for one summer there was difficulty in engaging the same workers the next summer. Often a new group of workers was secured each summer. It was clear that the play centers could not become the neighborhood centers they ought to be, unless as in settlement work, the leaders continued throughout the year, and year after year. In nearly every community there is more than enough recreation work needing attention to give steady employment to trained workers throughout the year.

A VISIT TO
BALTIMORE

If you know of someone who needs to renew the spirit of youth, to feel again the thrill that comes in losing oneself in joyous play, take your friend with you to the Eastern Female High School in Baltimore on a Monday or Wednesday or Friday evening. Watch the folk games, the gymnastic and athletic games, the singing and the marching, the storytelling and the dramatics, all under trained leaders, and you will rejoice that our American cities are now thinking not only how they may protect their citizens from violence, disease and ignorance, but are giving their thought to making life in the different neighborhoods as vital and rich as may be.

RURAL
RECREATION

A county supervisor of play! Long have our county districts waited. The country is developing its social institutions just as surely as the city. Essex County, Massachusetts, has had its playground association. The Young Men's Christian Association has developed its splendid system of county secretaries. Now in Hamilton County, Tennessee,

we have a county superintendent of play, supported by public taxation. Several other counties are at the present time considering the organization of the play life of the community. The annual meeting of the Playground and Recreation Association of America this year will be devoted to the subject of rural recreation.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES Wherever life is vital there you will find attention to play. Men and women from India, China, Japan, Africa, are seeking information as to how play centers may best be organized. If the Association had the resources one person could be kept busy attending to the questions arising in connection with the foreign correspondence.

SOUTH AMERICA The first playground in Rio Janeiro is already a success. Mr. Tucker in his description of this playground tells of the helpful co-operation of Honorable William Jennings Bryan at the time of his South American trip. Mr. Bryan on several occasions on his trip urged the importance of play centers.

NEEDS OF THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

1. FIELD

At the present time there are enough cities seeking help from the Playground and Recreation Association of America, and needing such help, to keep eight field secretaries busy for the next two years.

2. INSTITUTES

The number of institutes which might wisely be held in various sections to create higher standards in recreation work is limited largely by the financial resources of the Association.

3. MEN

Increasingly city officials are looking to the Association to make definite recommendations for filling their positions. Much more time must be set free for finding the right men and women and persuading them to accept positions in recreation work.

NEEDS OF THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

4. PUBLICATIONS

Sufficient material of value to recreation workers is received at the office of the Association to fill a weekly magazine of the same size as *The Playground*. Some means must be found of placing this material in the hands of the recreation secretaries and play leaders of the country. If a person of the right literary ability were employed by the Association for this particular task valuable articles could be furnished regularly to a large number of magazines.

5. COMMERCIAL RECREATION

One hundred and forty cities are at the present time interested in the regulation of their dance halls and should have information regarding what New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and other cities have done. The Committee on Commercial Recreation needs \$4,000 for this year for special work in helping these 140 cities work out their problem.

6. RURAL RECREATION

The problems in this field are of a special kind. The Committee on Rural Recreation needs sufficient money to employ a capable worker to aid the many rural districts which are now seeking practical help.

7. RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent by large employers of labor in trying to bring greater efficiency through the right kind of recreation at noon and after hours of work. This whole problem needs further study. What form of recreation can be arranged for special groups like longshoremen, street car motormen and conductors and others forced often to be on hand—yet idle—for hours at a time?

A careful, thorough-going attempt to relate the recreation of workers to industrial efficiency and efficiency for living is a large and vital task. Much information gathered through such a study cannot be put in book form but should be made available through individual consultation on special problems,—that is, the person making such a study should serve as a consulting specialist.

NEEDS OF THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

8. PLAY IN INSTITUTIONS

Probably no one in the country is in a better position to know the needs of our various charitable institutions than Alexander Johnson, secretary of the National Conference of Charities and Correction. The following statement from Mr. Johnson shows his feeling regarding the great possibilities of play in institutions:

"Any one who has seen a group of children in an orphan asylum transformed through play, or knows how much joy may be brought to the insane or feeble-minded through further development of recreational opportunities, or understands how life may be quickened in homes for the aged, can realize what it would mean to have an expert from the Playground and Recreation Association of America giving his entire time to this problem."

OPPORTUNITIES

The Government officials having charge of Indian affairs are willing to use all their machinery to demonstrate the value of play for these boys and girls in their schools.

The state superintendent of schools in Oregon is willing to use his resources, arranging for traveling expenses, entertainment, and other incidental expenses if the Association will furnish a leader to direct a state-wide campaign to make Oregon a model state in provision for recreation.

The state superintendent of schools in Texas would like to interest all the school principals and school superintendents in a special campaign for general participation in athletics and play.

Representatives from China and India have come to the Association for help in planning recreation centers for these countries. Shanghai, China, already has two recreation centers. Mr. Goethe, of Sacramento, California, urges the Association to make provision for meeting the great thirst for information he has found in all the foreign countries he has visited. Already inquiries are being received from Australia, Japan, Germany, England, South American countries, the Philippines, as well as China and India.

NEEDS OF THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

Special fellowships for the study of recreation problems could be arranged with several educational institutions if the Association had a worker to direct such studies.

The co-operation of the Association has been sought by those interested in the assimilation of immigrants. The Association could undoubtedly co-operate to advantage with those interested in this problem, helping to secure in certain communities an adaptation of the local recreation work or an extension of it to meet this special need.

In a similar way the co-operation of the Association has been sought by men and women interested in the vice problem. The Chicago Vice Commission and the Minneapolis Vice Commission have both suggested the multiplication of wisely managed recreation centers as an efficient aid in the anti-vice campaign. If the Association had the resources, co-operation with those interested in this problem would undoubtedly enable the Association to work out plans for making local recreation work more effective in combating this great evil.

The Men and Religion Forward Movement are stirring up men in various cities to active social and religious service. If the Association had been in a position to co-operate as it was asked to do in following up this work, trying to stir influential men up to important local recreational tasks, much could have been done.

The Victor Talking Machine Company without regard to expense, is preparing the best music for the list of ten folk dances selected by the Folk Dance Committee and is willing to co-operate in advertising these folk dances throughout the country. Children who have learned the dances in the schools and on the playground can thus have music in the home for these dances and teach them to their parents.

If the Association had the resources, one of the best storytellers in the world would be glad to attempt to develop in the colleges of the country a revival of the old time interest in storytelling, so that in our American homes this valuable form of play might be enjoyed.

PLAY IN A NORMAL SCHOOL

The Association has received a very interesting description of the attempt to introduce play work in one of our normal schools. In the beginning the students saw no fun in active games. They seldom laughed and rarely associated. Certain chores at school, as at their homes, had to be done, and the rest of the time was spent in loafing. This condition the teachers believed to be the result of the isolation in the remote country districts from which the young men and women came to this normal school.

At this point someone proposed the organization of a basketball team. The boys willing to learn the game were classified as first, second, third, fourth and fifth class men according to possible ability. One of each class was placed on a team and a schedule for a Round Robin tournament was arranged. Each team chose its own captain who practically taught his team. At first the boys excelled in hand to hand fights. However, in a few weeks all but five out of ninety-five boys were in the game in earnest, and the gymnasium, once practically unused, has become the center of the play life of the school.

The girls it was impossible to interest in a like series of contests. At first out of a class of one hundred and sixty but half could be brought into the play activities. Rhythm, however, was found to appeal to them and accordingly plans were set on foot for a pageant. Though there was considerable opposition to social dancing, there seemed to be none to the festivals arranged by the school, even though various forms of dancing played a large part in these pageants. Out of the nearly seven hundred students enrolled practically all were in the pageant of last year.

The work which is being done at this normal school is most vital and will surely have a large influence in the communities to which these teachers shall go.

DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION SURVEY EXHIBIT

PREPARED BY ROWLAND HAYNES, UNDER THE CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION, FOR THE CITY BUDGET EXHIBIT AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, NOVEMBER, 1911

Three poster charts showing what 1421 Milwaukee children seen out-of-doors were doing:

18% working, 32% playing, and 50% doing nothing

Map showing 20 blocks in Milwaukee where 1058 children between 4 and 15 years of age live, with open spaces free for play, and land build upon or cut up into too small lots for play

These lots and open spaces are shown in colors, and the children are represented by pins stuck into the streets and open places

Chart showing a second Milwaukee neighborhood with relative amounts of open and occupied space, and traffic conditions of streets

Map showing third Milwaukee neighborhood of 20 city blocks, with schoolyard within its limits and park playground adjacent, also several vacant lots

The fact is shown that on a given Saturday morning, when 459 children were out-of-doors in that neighborhood, none were in the schoolyard, none were in the park playground, 38 were on vacant lots, 55 in private yards, and 366 on the streets

Caption used: "Play Leadership Needed to Use Spaces We Have"

Charts showing density per acre in different wards of the city Percentage of children to total population in the different wards

Every 57 minutes, day and night, winter and summer, a Milwaukee child reaches the age of 5 and wants a place to play; every 72 minutes a Milwaukee boy or girl reaches the age of 16 and wants a good time

Caption used: "Fight Vice With Wholesome Recreation"

Charts showing numbers, distribution, and capacity of moving picture shows and theatres, numbers of pool tables, billiard tables, and bowling alleys, with estimate given of where young people are on Saturday nights

Chart showing that Milwaukee has grown six times as fast as rural Wisconsin in the decade, 1900 to 1910

A NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR SALOONS*

FRED P. BEMIS

Davenport, Iowa

The desire for liquor is abnormal and unnatural,—it must be acquired. The saloon keeper recognizes this, and so in order to get young men to visit his saloon he appeals at first to those natural desires which everyone has for sociability, amusement, recreation, and comfort. How many of you realize how attractive a first class saloon can be made? It is warm, well lighted, handsomely furnished, clean, and cozy. The bartenders are picked men, good-natured, courteous, and friendly. There are papers to read, games of all sorts, toilet rooms, free lunch, a place to smoke, and plenty of genial company with whom it is easy to get acquainted. Now what other places are there which furnish *free* all these attractions of the saloon? The answer is easy—there are none.

There are two classes of substitutes for the saloon:—those which furnish sociability and amusement, as the Young Men's Christian Association, secret societies, lodges, and clubs; then there are those which furnish non-intoxicating drinks, as the temperance saloons, coffee and soup houses, and many charitable institutions. Our substitute for saloons must not only be free, but it must have some more attractive features than the saloon can command, something which money cannot buy. The strongest desire in every true man's nature is for the society of the gentler sex. The tenderness and kindness of modest, refined women, their power to please and amuse, to soothe and sympathize, these are the magnets upon which we must rely.

Our forefathers recognized that it was the duty of the state to provide free education for all, rich and poor, and our public school system, the best in the world, is the result. Recreation, society, and amusement are just as essential to the mental and moral welfare of the people as education is to the child. The state, or in other words the wealthy tax payers, now provide public parks, museums, and libraries in our cities. In Europe there are theatres, opera houses, and gymnasiums partly supported by public funds.

* The above paper was written and read in the Congregational Church in Davenport, Iowa, about 1891.

A NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR SALOONS

Why should not the commonwealth furnish club houses, which could be made much more attractive than saloons, at the public expense? The necessary taxes would be trifling compared with those now required by the crime, poverty, and sickness which the saloons cause. I would suggest as a possible solution of this problem that the public school buildings should be utilized. They are used for school purposes only thirty hours in the week and forty weeks in the year, and during the rest of the time could be open as social resorts to all the people. Of course, some change in furnishing would be necessary to suit them for both purposes. The children's seats and desks could be made light and moveable and at the close of school work each scholar could put his own seat with the pile of other seats in a corner of the room. The buildings would be warm any way. Plenty of lights would not cost much. We could have one room with rocking chairs where the mothers could bring their babies and their sewing and spend the evening. In another room the fathers could smoke, and read the papers, and talk politics. In still other rooms the children could play games, and romp, and make as much noise as they wished. The largest room in each building could be kept as an audience room and used for debating societies, singing school, concerts or dramatic performances by home talent, political meetings, health talks by physicians and numerous other such entertainments. Every city school building ought to have a gymnasium and bath rooms, and a library and reading rooms for the use of the scholars. But if not so provided it would only cost a little to equip a school room with gymnastic apparatus. Magazines and papers for a reading room could easily be supplied, also writing tables; and a small branch of the public library could be opened in each building. But this is just the beginning of the attractions which might be furnished. A piano and other musical instruments could be provided. One room could be used for dancing, another could be equipped with all sorts of games. A restaurant could be added where, of course, only non-intoxicating beverages should be sold. The profits from this would help defray the expenses.

The playgrounds around the building could be brilliantly lighted, and all sorts of outdoor games could be played, and thus the children kept off the streets. There is no reason why a school-house should be like a prison, bare and cheerless. The furnishings

RECREATION CENTER FOR PEORIA

which would be considered necessary for a club house, such as tinted walls, pictures, curtains, easy chairs and lounges, would not be thrown away on the children. The pleasant associations also which the place would have would help to make the school life of the children easier.

There are other advantages of this plan which will occur to you. It would give a place for the free discussion of political and social questions. These are now discussed chiefly in saloons, with the result that saloon keepers are dictating, and those who frequent saloons are choosing, who shall be our law makers.

It would enable rich and poor to meet on a common footing, to get better acquainted with each other, and so would tend to break down the class distinctions which are growing up in our midst of a moneyed aristocracy, which is a peril to our republican form of government. "But," you may say, "we could not allow our daughters to go to such a place and associate with everyone who might come in." When they were younger and much more impressionable they did associate with everyone in the public schools. Many young women live in boarding houses, or their homes are so small that they cannot entertain callers. This plan would give a suitable place where young people could spend their leisure time together.

There is no limit to what can be done to make life enjoyable, if we apply and extend this principle, that it is the duty of the commonwealth to furnish means for recreation to all. Of course we can also have special buildings which shall be designed and used only for social purposes, but the schoolhouse is everywhere, it belongs to the people, it is idle much of the time, and it might be utilized in this way.

RECREATION CENTER FOR PEORIA

The recreation center as a form of memorial is becoming more and more common. Public spirited citizens who desire to render some permanent service to their native place like to think of the joy which such recreation centers will bring the people of their city generation after generation.

Recently the trustees of the J. C. Proctor Endowment purchased a tract of land about the size of two ordinary city blocks

RECREATION CENTER FOR PEORIA

at a cost of \$30,000. A \$100,000 building is planned. There will be two gymnasiums, free baths, swimming pools, club rooms, library rooms, and bowling alley. The worker in charge will have his home at the recreation center. The entire expense of maintenance will be borne by the J. C. Proctor Endowment. The hope is that this recreation center shall be a model and that municipal bodies will provide for other neighborhoods in the same way. Those in charge plan to make sure that there is adequate supervision of this recreation work.

Peoria is certainly to be congratulated on having its splendid recreation center in charge of those who appreciate the necessity of having in such a center the best possible trained leaders. Many other cities will watch with interest the development of this Peoria play center.



MUSIC AT A RECREATION CENTRE

There is perhaps no better demonstration of the belief of people in the necessity of recreation as a part of civic life, than that conservative business men should be willing to put time, thought and money into making permanent the idea that the life of the community as a whole may be broadened through the provision of wholesome recreation for the leisure hours of all.



A FORM OF PLAY
Boys' Club work in a rural district

A RURAL EXPERIMENT

April 1st, 1911, a most interesting experiment was started in Hamilton County, Tennessee. A supervisor of play was engaged to look after play interests throughout the schools of the county. In this county as in many other places it is reported that at first the children did not know how to play. The "survival of the fittest" was in full operation. The older boys used the play space while the little chaps hung around on the edges glad of the chance to watch and to anticipate the time when their own might and brawn would permit them to thrust aside the newcomers. For the older boys a baseball team was started, a series of games planned and organized, and senior and junior teams developed in all the schools. A school spirit was thus created which had hitherto been unknown.

The boys who could not make the teams were interested in relay racing, track work, Day and Night, Fox and Sheep, Prisoner's Base, Bully in the Ring and numerous other games that could be played on the school grounds. A course of play for the girls was mapped out which immediately caught their interest. The interest in ball games manifested among the larger girls was such that a league for playground ball was started and a team

A RURAL EXPERIMENT

organized in each grade from the third up to the eighth. This stirred up an intense rivalry. Girls who had hitherto been passive became active on the grounds and in their schoolroom work. Those who did not participate in this form of play were encouraged to enter into other games.

TARDINESS ELIMINATED

Through play the attendance was stimulated and from the report blanks tardy marks were soon eliminated. This was brought about by depriving delinquents of the play periods and insisting that anyone who fell below a percentage of seventy-five was ineligible to participate in anything until the grade was brought up to the required standard. The effect of the work was so pronounced that the School Board arranged to make the position of the supervisor of play official for all their schools.

BASEBALL WITHOUT FIGHTING

In the eleven suburban schools junior and senior baseball teams were organized to play two games a week, making four games a day for five days and two on Saturday. The only iron-clad rule the boys had to follow was to refrain from profanity and tobacco. One of the newspapers offered pennants and gave the boys plenty of publicity. The playing of the boys was in some instances of such high calibre that crowds of people would turn out to cheer certain nines to victory. At first it was somewhat difficult to keep the right spirit among the spectators. But after one offender had been handled by the law things went smoothly and three hundred boys for the first time in the history of Chattanooga played baseball without fighting and under the proper influence.

COMMUNITY DAYS

During the summer a movement was put on foot for a safe and sane celebration of the Fourth of July, using three schools as a nucleus. An historical pageant was presented which was witnessed by thousands of people. Another step taken was to hold a teachers' institute where the rural instructors were taught

A RURAL EXPERIMENT



THERE'S NO FUN LIKE SNOW FUN



A TOBOGGAN SLIDE

on the playground ought to mean better work in the school class room

A RURAL EXPERIMENT

psychology and the room and yard games. A plan of work for the year was given them as it is impossible for the supervisor to visit all the small schools. In all there are forty schools under supervision, with an attendance varying from seventy-five to nearly eight hundred. There are four high school districts in the county; and on each campus it was planned to hold a fall and spring track meet or in reality a general school picnic day for all the boys and girls of each high school district. Farmers with their families drove in prepared to spend the day; and by the time the sun had disappeared over the Tennessee hills the people went home tired but happy, filled with the memories of a wonderfully good time. The fall meets were all successes.

CLASS STANDING OF SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT. REQUIRED

In the suburban schools a more pretentious system is being carried out. First, a practical system of schoolroom calisthenics has been installed in all the schools. The teachers are taught two new exercises every two weeks and are now working on a daily schedule of two five-minute periods. This was not a part of the duty of the play supervisor, but it seemed to be needed and has been carried out successfully. The first twelve exercises developed the body harmoniously. Second, a yard arrangement is made for the grades. Each child knows his play space and at the tap of the dismissal bell goes to it. Third, the older boys of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are playing a game called County Ball. It is a combination of football, basket ball and town ball, invented by the play supervisor. Every school has two teams of eleven players each who represent the school in inter-school competitions once a week. In the schoolyard fifty, one hundred, or one hundred and twenty-five boys play at a time, and up to the present time there has not been a single injury reported. The principal acts as umpire and carefully watches all play. A class average of seventy-five per cent. is a requirement for all players. The boys not actively engaged in County Ball may play Two Deep, Three Deep, Fox in the Morning, Follow the Leader, Day and Night, Bully in the Ring, and a number of active games, changing a game as soon as the interest lags, which is usually in about ten days' school time. The smaller boys of the first and second grades play with the girls

A RURAL EXPERIMENT

in the ring games and elementary folk songs and dances. The third and fourth grade boys usually join with the higher grades in the games of Bully in the Ring, Day and Night, and other games. In the spring a track meet and a senior and junior baseball league will be arranged, for the inter-school games intensify school spirit and reach a number of boys who cannot otherwise be reached. Fourth, the older girls are now playing nine-player basket ball and playground ball. Class teams are organized. After a team wins the championship of its school, it is permitted to play the champions of one other school two games. These games are played on the girls' side of the school grounds. (While the older girls are engaged in this way, the smaller ones are playing Prisoner's Base, Cat and Rat, Follow Me, Three Deep and Call Ball. The first and second grades are enjoying at the same time games of the ring variety and folk songs and dances.)

In the fall and in the spring the children from all the suburban schools unite in an open air pageant. Each school in the last pageant represented a foreign nation with characteristic costume, song, and dance. The progress in six months was remarkable. This spring an historical performance is planned using the history of Tennessee as a basis.

EQUIPMENT

A public spirited citizen contributed the equipment for several schoolyards which was placed in the least used parts of the grounds. Different grades are permitted to use different parts of the apparatus during the rest periods. As there was no appropriation made for play material the supervisor purchased the balls, took them to the school, interested the boys and girls and then had them "nickel up," as the boys term it, until they were paid for. The principals and teachers co-operated satisfactorily.

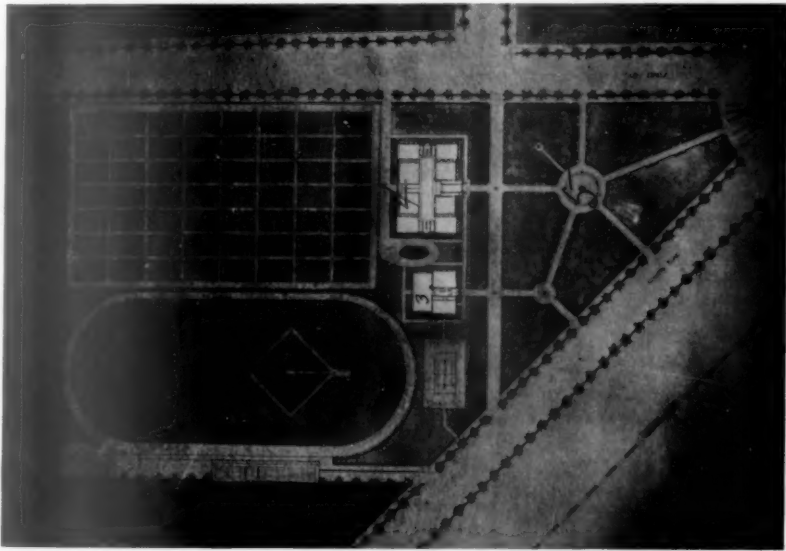
Sixteen hundred children of eight suburban schools took part on November second in a county play day. The editor of the *Chattanooga Times* reports that the event was a revelation to a large part of the citizenship. The park authorities of Chattanooga have announced a plan for the establishment of public playgrounds in the various sections of the city within the next year. Other counties in many states of the Union will watch the development of this plan of play work with great interest.

TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

This small country town of two thousand people has arranged a central playground, including an athletic field and a garden tract. A place is provided nearby for an experimental school with a gymnasium and shower baths, which will be opened for both pupils and parents.

A cottage for the teachers will be built on one corner of the playground, and the grounds themselves will be supervised at least eleven months and perhaps throughout the year. As many as possible of the public meetings of the neighborhood are being held in the High School.

At a school four miles away another center is being planned.



THE TOPPENISH PLAN

A TRACT OF ELEVEN ACRES

1. Athletic Field and Playground
2. Experimental and School Garden Tract
3. Present High School Site
4. Proposed High School Site
5. Parking Area (2½ acres)

A NEW KIND OF COUNTY FAIR

Dean L. H. Bailey of the State Agricultural College of New York points out that while the basis of country life is rapidly changing, the county fair has not changed its basis of operation in recent years and is insufficient for the epoch that we are now entering. His plea is for a fair that shall represent the real substantial progress of rural civilization and that will also help to make this progress,—one that shall be a power in the community, not a phenomenon that passes as a matter of course.

First, Dean Bailey would eliminate all gate receipts; all horse trots; all concessions and all shows; all display of ordinary store merchandise; all sales of articles and commodities; all money premiums; and would raise money by popular subscription, taking special pains that the committee in charge should so manage the campaign that every citizen of the county would realize that he owed allegiance to the enterprise.

Dean Bailey would wish to effect a complete transfer from the commercial and "amusement" phase to the educational and recreation phase. He would like to see the county fair made the real meeting place of the people, and would have special efforts made to get the children. He says "the best part of the fair would be the folks, and not the machines or the cattle—although these would be important too." The fair should be one great picnic and field day, where would come together the very best elements that are concerned in the development of country life.

"I should work through every organized enterprise in the county, as commercial clubs, creameries, co-operative societies, religious bodies, fraternal organizations, schools, and whatever other organized units already may exist.

"I would have every person bring and exhibit what he considers to be his best contribution to the development of a good country life. One man would exhibit his bushel of potatoes; another his Holstein bull; another his pumpkin or his plate of apples; another a picture and plans of his modern barn; another his driving team; another his flock of sheep, or his herd of swine; another his pen of poultry; another his plan for a new house or a sanitary kitchen, or for the instalation of water supplies, or for the building of a farm bridge, or the improved hanging of a barn door, or for a better kind of fence, or for a new kink in a farm harness, or the

A NEW KIND OF COUNTY FAIR

exhibition of tools best fitted for clay land or sandy land, and so on and on. The woman would also show what she is contributing to better conditions,—her best handiwork in fabrics, her best skill in cooking, her best plans in housekeeping, her best ideas for church work or for club work. The children would show their pets, what they had grown in the garden, what they had made in the house or the barn, what they had done in the school, what they had found in the woods. I should assume that every person living on the land in the county had some one thing which he was sure was a contribution to better farming, or to better welfare. I should put it up to every man to show in what respect he has any right to claim recognition over his fellows, or to be a part of his community.

"I would ask the newspapers and the agricultural press to show up their work; also the manufacturers of agricultural implements and of country life articles.

"I would also ask the organizations to prove up. What is the creamery contributing to a better country life? What the school? The church? The grange? The co-operative exchange? The farmers' club? The reading club? The woman's society? The literary circle? The library?

"I should give much attention to the organization of good games and sports, and I should have these co-operative between schools, or other organizations, such organizations having prepared for them consecutively during the preceding year. I should introduce good contests of all kinds. I should fill the fair with good fun and frolic. I should want to see some good pageants and dramatic efforts founded on the industries, history, or traditions of the region or at least of the United States. It should not be so very difficult to find literature for such exercises even now, for a good deal has been written. By song, music, speaking, acting, and various other ways, it would not be difficult to get all the children in the schools of the county at work. In the old days of the school 'exhibition,' something of this spirit prevailed. It was manifest in the old 'spelling bees' and also in the 'lyceum.' We have lost our rural cohesion because we have been attracted by the town and the city, and we have allowed the town and the city to do our work. I think it would not be difficult to organize a pageant, or something of the kind, at a county fair, that would make the

RIO DE JANEIRO'S FIRST PLAYGROUND

ordinary vaudeville or side-show or gim-crack look cheap and ridiculous and not worth one's while.

"If we organize our fair on a recreation and educational basis, then we can take out all commercial phases, as the paying of money premiums. An award of merit, if it is nothing more than a certificate or a memento, would then be worth more than a hundred dollars in money. It is probable that the fair would have to assume the expense of certain of the exhibits. So far as possible, I should substitute co-operation and emulation for competition, particularly for competition for money."

RIO DE JANEIRO'S FIRST PLAYGROUND

H. C. TUCKER

On July 3rd, 1909, the *Journal of Commerce*, the leading daily paper in the city, kindly published at my request an article in which attention was called to the need and value of modern playgrounds. Facts and statistics were given concerning the movement in the United States and Europe. In December of that year the same paper published an article in which the educational value of wisely directed play for children was discussed, the opinions of a number of authorities on the subject were given, and the special needs for such an enterprise for the city of Rio de Janeiro were emphasized. Again, in February, 1910, through the columns of this paper, a direct appeal was made in an open letter to the mayor and city authorities to set apart a plot of ground where the experiment might be tried. On the occasion of his visit in March, the Honorable William Jennings Bryan was invited to say a few words on playgrounds at the People's Central Institute (the Central Mission) in the presence of several representative men, and others of the city. A day or two later he took occasion to appeal to the mayor's wife for her influence with her husband in behalf of the scheme. An ex-mayor and others became interested and the superintendent of public parks and gardens was approached. The subject at once appealed to his kind heart. He suggested the possibility of using a plot in the old Imperial Palace grounds, which were then undergoing extensive improvements looking towards its conversion into

RIO DE JANEIRO'S FIRST PLAYGROUND

a public park, the palace itself having been set apart as the National Museum.

A plan of co-operation was devised between the corps of workers in the People's Central Institute and the local Young Men's Christian Association. During my visit to the United States from April to October, 1910, playgrounds were visited and studied, information and helpful suggestions were obtained from the Playground and Recreation Association of America, and the co-operation and support of the Young Men's Christian Association International Committee was secured in selecting and sending out a physical and playground director.

In November, shortly after my return to Rio, the mayor of the city and the superintendent of parks met us by appointment in the park above referred to, and definitely designated two large plots of ground splendidly located for the purpose. They agreed to do all the work of preparing the grounds and putting up our apparatus, at municipal expense. The matter was at once laid before the manager of the Rio de Janeiro Tramway Light and Power Company with a view to obtaining old street car rails and other material for constructing apparatus. He generously volunteered to secure for us a supply of the most modern playground apparatus to be had on the occasion of his contemplated vacation in the States. The Brazilian Government authorities granted our request to allow this supply of apparatus to pass through the Custom House free of duties. Seven wholesale dealers in the city signed an agreement to furnish all the galvanized piping and other material needed to properly install the apparatus. Another house granted a supply of ropes, and another a large Brazilian flag.

In the meantime the physical and playground director from the Springfield Training School had been selected by the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association and had been sent out to be largely supported by the Rio Young Men's Christian Association and the People's Central Institute. He superintended the final laying out of the playground and athletic field and the erecting of the apparatus.

The work was completed just in time for the formal inauguration to take place on the Twelfth of October, a national holiday in commemoration of the discovery of America. The mayor, super-



Children enjoy warming themselves after games on a playground in winter

PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS IN PORTO RICO

intendent of parks and many other people of prominence were present. The mayor furnished a band for the occasion, and hoisted the national flag, and spoke hearty, enthusiastic words of appreciation and encouragement, assuring us of his help in every way possible in carrying out our program for the intellectual, moral, and physical education and elevation of the people in this great city. The children and young people sang the Brazilian national hymn, and, as the mayor and his party were leaving, all sang one of our Brazilian songs which is an adaptation, or imitation, of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." It was a delight to see how eagerly the children and young people embraced the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the apparatus and how readily they grasped the idea of its use.

The equipment is expensive, but the manner in which it was obtained enlisted co-operation from several different sources. The municipal authorities of Rio de Janeiro furnished the grounds and bore all charges connected with putting them in order and erecting the apparatus, which represented an expenditure of at last two thousand dollars. The apparatus and outfit donated by friends as above mentioned amounted to another two thousand dollars. The physical director in charge has supervision also of the gymnasium work in the Young Men's Christian Association and calisthenics in the People's Central Institute. The mayor of the city promises to send groups of public school children to the grounds as often as possible; and free and frequent use will be made of them by all connected with the two co-operating institutions.

PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS IN PORTO RICO

At the beginning of the school year 1908-9 Porto Rico had but one playground,—maintained by the Playground Association of Porto Rico. The Commissioner of Education for Porto Rico felt this ought not so to be. He decided to do what he could to encourage the establishment of playgrounds. Dr. Henry S. Curtis was secured to give illustrated lectures. Circular letters were sent out by the departments to all the school boards and municipal authorities of the different towns of the island asking for their "co-operation in this important phase of education." The school boards and

PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS IN PORTO RICO

town officials in many places immediately began looking for desirable sites. F. E. Libby, General Superintendent of Schools, was intrusted with the problems relating to playgrounds. He visited many of the towns, inspecting playground sites and advising with regard to the apparatus best suited to local conditions. The attitude of the school boards and of the prominent men was found most encouraging.

In a number of towns land for playgrounds was donated by the municipality; in one by a private individual; in three it was rented by the school boards; in five it was bought by the school boards; in five the use of the land was granted free by private individuals. Over fifty-seven acres have been set aside for playgrounds in fifty-two towns. Over twenty thousand dollars has been expended for apparatus.

As a rule the playgrounds have been open during recess and for a few hours in the afternoon. The teachers have co-operated by offering their services. In most cases the regular grade teachers have been in charge of the playgrounds while the children were playing.

The Commissioner of Education believes that "the time is not far distant when attention will be directed to the physical needs of the fifty thousand children in the rural schools of Porto Rico."

Porto Rico has already surpassed the rest of the United States in that she has a regular department of her government carrying on playground field work. What Porto Rico has already achieved several states are now beginning to consider,—the appointment of a regular state official who shall have the same relation to the problems of play that the state superintendent of education has to the problems of the schools.

GAMES WHICH HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES

WILLIAM R. HARPER

New York City

These particular games are tried and true. They are, so to speak, of the automatic type. Just start the boys in these games and they will play them by the hour as they now play baseball and basketball. These games have the interest-producing power that makes the boys play with spirit.

These game diagrams will enable the playground worker to quickly organize large numbers of children and supply a variety of excellent games having the qualities of classic play,—simple in formation, intense with interest, and engaging many players.

Good and excellent as are baseball, basketball, and tennis, yet the numbers engaged are so small there is need for the kind of games proposed in this brief paper.

The three famous games are included in the above. Baseball is played in the square or diamond, basketball in the triangle, and football in the parallel lines. There is no reason why all the games proposed under these diagrams should not become equally as famous as the three just mentioned.

LIST OF GAMES, PLANS, OR GAME DIAGRAMS

Note:—× (mark) indicates the players.

Definitions—A *line* of players is one in which all are facing in same direction standing or sitting *side by side*.

A *file* of players is one in which all are facing in same direction standing or sitting one *behind the other*.

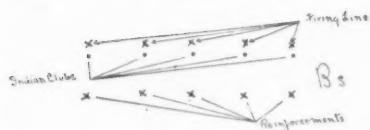
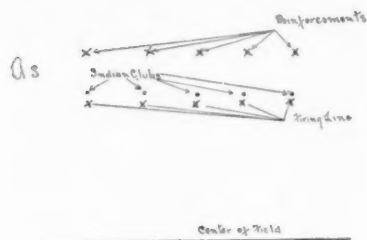
Much confusion results by a mis-use of these two terms, *line* and *file*.

The various basic forms of all games are as follows: (1) line (—) or parallel lines (=); (2) file(|) or parallel(||) files; (3) ring (o) or rings(oo) or (⊙); (4) triangle (Δ); (5) diamond(□), and (6) miscellaneous groups.

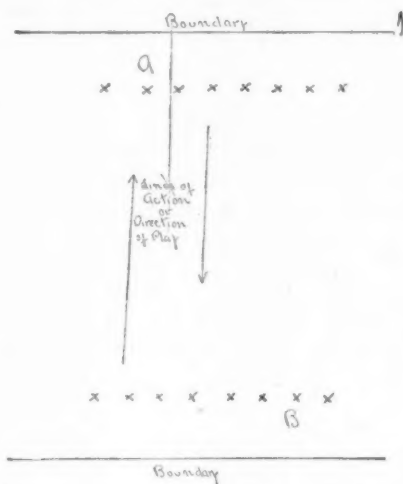
LINES GAME

Bombardment.—Each boy on firing line has a bean bag or ball. Behind each boy on firing line is placed an Indian club or

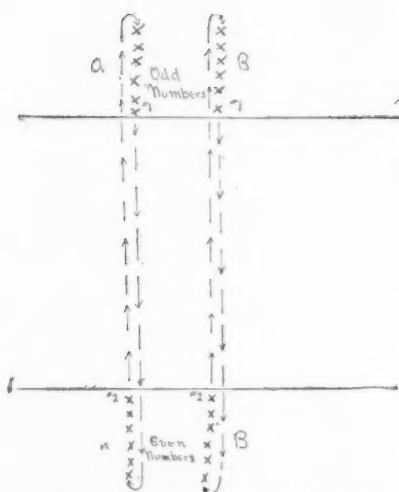
GAMES WHICH HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES



Bombardment
Wm. R. Harper

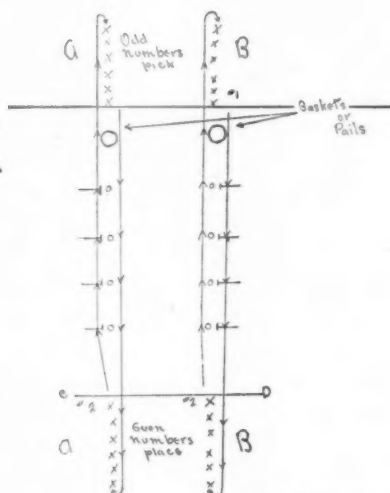


Boundary Ball—Girls
Hill Dill—Boys
or
Double Duck on Rock—Boys
Wm. R. Harper



Shuttle Relay Race
Wm. R. Harper

(also Flag, Bean Bag, Ball, Dumb-bell)



Team Potato Race
Wm. R. Harper

GAMES WHICH HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES

cigar box standing upright. Each boy on firing line and his reinforcement, *i. e.*, the boy directly behind him, is termed a company or regiment. The boy on firing line is standing directly in front of the Indian club protecting it against being knocked down. The boys of the firing line of the opposing teams throw their missiles continuously until all companies or regiments of one side or team have been beaten. A company or regiment is defeated as follows: When a club is knocked down first time, firing line boy goes to rear as reinforcement, original reinforcement boy goes to front to defend same club or box; when same club or box has been knocked down a second time the company or regiment has been defeated and retires.

Boys on the firing line may run forward to center line of field (but not over it) to throw their missiles (bean bags or balls); while doing this their reinforcements may defend the club or box until return of firing line member; only one boy at a time allowed to defend a club.

The (—) line game—Duck on Rock.



Each boy on line has a ball or bean bag. Follow old rule for game.

The (=) lines game—Hill Dill.



While teams are changing places boy in center tags as many as possible. All tagged assist him until all are tagged. The team last tagged wins.

Rules—Ref., 150 Gym Games.

GAMES WHICH HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES

THE FILE OR (||) FILES GAME

The odd numbered boy starts the race. The obstacle is delivered to team mate behind the line. No boy runs until he receives the obstacle (flag or bean bag, etc.). These games may be run in as many sets as there are judges (one judge for each set; a set is composed of two teams). With ten judges, it is an easy matter to engage one thousand boys under given weight at the same time. Have the ten sets compete if desired. The winning team of any set making the best time, wins. Of course, all teams must have same number of boys.

Note.—Any number of boys up to fifty.

Rules—Ref., 150 Gym Games.

THE FILE OR (||) FILES GAME—OBSTACLE

The odd numbered boys on each team start the race, following the regular rules of the potato race until they have placed the last potato in the basket. Then they touch off a Number 2 member of their team (behind the line C D). The Number 2's take the potatoes one at a time and place them on the marks (indicated by small sticks laid flat on the ground) until all potatoes are placed again. Then touch off the next Number 1 of the team,—and so on. One thousand boys may be engaged in this game at the same time.

THE RING GAME

Competitive Dodge Ball

Team A forms ring.

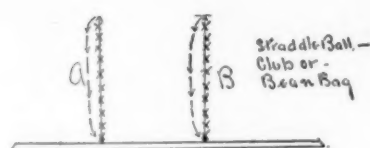
Team B group is within ring.

1. Boys on ring throw the basketball to strike any boy of inner group. As boys are hit they quickly join the ring and assist in the throwing. The last boy remaining within ring (being the best dodger) is the winner for his team.

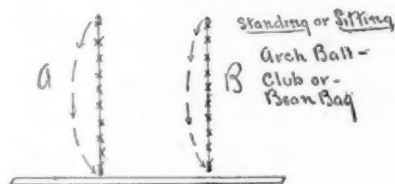
2. Then the teams change places; the team that was within now forms the ring and their opponents gather within ring. When the winner for this team has been determined the winners for both (2 boys) are placed within ring composed of the two teams. The boy who dodges free of the ball to the last determines the winning team.

Rules—Ref., 150 Gym Games.

GAMES WHICH HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES

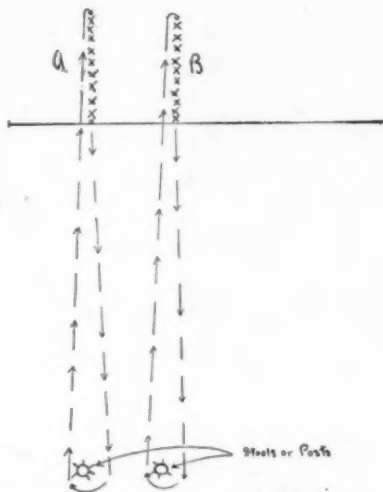


Saddle Ball -
Club or -
Bean Bag



Standing or Sitting

Arch Ball -
Club or -
Bean Bag



Sticks or Posts

Wm. R. Harber

Arch Ball—Shot Relay—Basket Ball
Arch Ball—Wall Relay

Wm. R. Harber

Single Relay Race—Free-hand
(also Flag, Bean Bag, Ball, or Dumb-bell
Relay)



Wm. R. Harber

Dodge Ball—Boys or Girls



Children in the large city need to play in the winter just as much as village children.

BOOK REVIEWS

BERTHA FREEMAN

HOMELESS, VAGRANT AND RUNAWAY BOYS*

One of the most readable as well as enlightening chapters in Mrs. Solenberger's "One Thousand Homeless Men" is that devoted to boys. The author here gives the account of her experience with, and the results of her study of, one hundred and seventeen boys who came under her gentle and wise influence for the three years when she was a district secretary in the Bureau of Charities in Chicago. This account includes not only the record of what was done for the boy at the time he was under treatment, but also what could be learned from a recent inquiry into his after life.

Mrs. Solenberger's conclusions are that the boy of from fifteen to nineteen runs away from home, not because of the cruelty of parents, but more often because of the lack of understanding between him and the other members of his family and their failure to make life at home interesting and happy. So often running away comes from a desire to wander which if counteracted by directed travel or by work or amusement would save the boy from becoming the worthless tramp which is so apt to be the end of the runaway boy.

Mrs. Solenberger notes with hopeful tenor the general recognition of the need for manual training in the schools, for boys' clubs, for directed games on the playgrounds, and for a wider consideration of the adolescent boy.

RECREATION LEGISLATION†

Whereas formerly legislation affecting recreation concerned itself merely with the protection of society from those who sought their recreation in such a way as to make themselves objectionable to the community, of late it has come to the social consciousness that the way in which people spend their leisure hours is a powerful factor in the welfare of the community. Therefore, within the last few years such legislation has taken on a constructive

* Chapter XIII of "One Thousand Homeless Men," by Alice Willard Solenberger. Charities Publication Committee 1911. Price \$1.25

† "Recreation Legislation," compiled by Lee F. Hammer. Publication No. 106, Department of Child Hygiene, Russell Sage Foundation. Price, 20 cents.

BOOK REVIEWS

aspect. Since 1892 sixteen states have passed laws, permissive or mandatory, or both, providing for various phases of public recreation.

This pamphlet of sixty-eight pages quotes all the state laws in existence in this country and a few of the city ordinances which are typical. Not the least important of its contents is the text of legislation proposed in two states which has not passed, but which is rich in suggestion for those who wish to draft recreation legislation which shall meet the needs of communities in an up-building way.

HANDBOOK OF SETTLEMENTS*

A most valuable reference book has this summer been published under the auspices of the Russell Sage Foundation—the Handbook of Settlements, by that authority on social settlements, the head resident of the South End House in Boston, and his colleague.

Here are presented in brief outline the material facts about every social settlement in the United States. These are found to number four hundred and thirteen.

In an appendix are to be learned the locations of social settlements in other countries, with the names of the head workers, and also facts with regard to settlements in this country which have been discontinued.

It is significant to note, in a casual glance through its pages, how large a part recreation fills in the activities of the settlement.

THREE HUNDRED GAMES AND PASTIMES†

A BOOK OF SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN'S GAMES AND EMPLOYMENT

In this volume of 367 pages the question "What shall we do now?" is answered by suggestions of amusement for boys and girls in the city or country, outdoors or in, alone or in groups.

A section given up to games to be played wherever one happens to be and using whatever happens to be at hand, will

* "Handbook of Settlements," by Robert A. Woods and Albert J. Kennedy. Charities Publication Committee, New York, 1911. Price \$1.50 (cloth); \$.75 (paper).

† "Three Hundred Games and Pastimes; or, What Shall We Do Now?" by Edward Verrall Lucas and Elizabeth Lucas. Macmillan, New York. Price, \$2.00.

BOOK REVIEWS

be welcomed by those who have the care of children upon journeys and have found themselves at a loss to occupy the tedious hours on the train or when obliged to wait while making connections. Gardening and cooking come in for consideration, and also the care of pets. The book is simply written and may be put into the hands of the children themselves, or kept by the mother as a reference book when ideas fail. A number of blank sheets at the end are provided for notes of games not mentioned in the book, but which the owners of the book have invented, or learned from other sources, and have enjoyed.

CAMPING FOR BOYS*

Have you smelled wood smoke at twilight?
Have you heard the birch log burning?
Are you quick to read the noises of the night?
You must follow with the others, for the young men's feet
are turning
To the camps of proved desire and known delight.

From Kipling's "Feet of the Young Men"

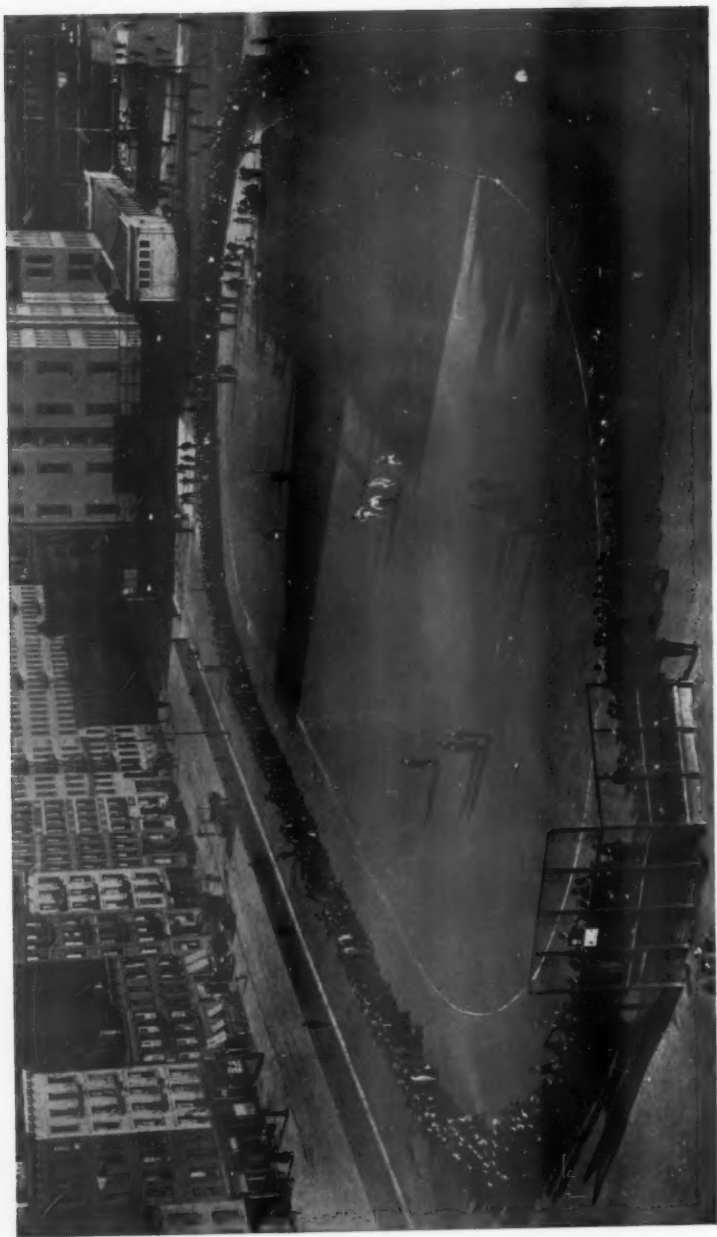
Camping offers a solution for the problem of the summer vacation period which so often, because of the lack of restraint and of regular duties, becomes a period of moral deterioration for school boys.

The author of this handbook of suggestions for those who undertake the charge of boys' camps has had twenty-three years' experience in conducting such camps.

He tells us the purposes and aims of camping, gives practical hints for the administration of the camp, and of the activities of the camp.

A bibliography accompanies the discussion of the various topics and diagrams and illustrations are helpful and enhance the value of the text.

* "Camping for boys," by H. W. Gibson. Association Press, New York, 1911. Price \$1.00



A PLAYGROUND IN THE HEART OF A GREAT CITY

**LANTERN SLIDES—Illustrating Every Phase of
PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION WORK**

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PUBLICATIONS EVERY PLAY LEADER OUGHT TO HAVE

EQUIPMENT

Playground Equipment---A Practical Talk. By Edward B. DeGroot. 18 pages. Price, 10 cents.

Playground Construction. By Lorna H. Leland. 6 pages. Price, 5 cents.

Playgrounds and Playground Equipment. By Elizabeth Rafter. 11 pages. Price, 5 cents.

The Home Playground. By Joseph Lee. 10 pages. Price, 5 cents.

Some Inexpensive Playground Apparatus. By E. H. Arnold. 8 pages. Price, 5 cents.

Landscape Gardening for Playgrounds. By Charles Mulford Robinson. 12 pages. Illustrated. Price, 5 cents.

Report of The Committee on Equipment, 1911. The Playground, Vol. IV, No. 8. 12 pages. Price, 25 cents.

The Playground and Recreation Association of America now needs above everything else an even larger group of men and women of influence devoted to the national recreation movement and ready to give their time and strength to it. In no military campaign ever waged has there been greater reason for men to give their entire strength to the cause than in the present campaign to make it possible that all men may have "life and have it more abundantly." There are few opportunities for rendering more fundamental service to the whole country than in the direction and development of the "Leisure Time" movement.

The demands now being received from cities where a beginning has already been made in recreation work are so urgent that if the Association were to receive \$25,000 additional this year, every dollar of it ought to go for this intensive work.